

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CPR-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15

ICA-11 HA-05 H-01 INR-10 CIAE-00 SP-02 /080 W

-----033081 011546Z /46

P 011325Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3650

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3123

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, PA

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT STROESSNER'S INAUGURATION

1. THE BRITISH CHARGE PENDLETON CALLED ON ME JULY 30 ON INSTURCTIONS FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE. HE STATED THAT LONDON WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF LAINO AND WAS CONSIDERING WHAT ACTION TO TAKE IN CASE LAINO WAS NOT RELEASED BY AUGUST 15, THE DAY OF PRESIDENT STROESSNER'S FIFTH INAUGURATION. HE SAID THAT LONDON MIGHT NOT ACCREDIT THE RESIDENT AMBASSADOR FOR THE INAUGURATION CEREMONIES IF LAINO WAS STILL IMPRISONED. HE ADDED THAT LONDON WAS ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE HIS COMMENTS AND HIS REPORT ON HIS DISCUSSION WITH ME AS THE RESIDENT BRITISH AMBASSADOR WAS DUE TO DEPART LONDON ON RETURN FROM HOME LEAVE AUGUST 4.

2. BOTH BENDLETON AND I BELIEVE, ON THE BASIS OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THAT LAINO WILL BE RELEASED PRIOR TO THE INAUGURATION. THIS IS OF COURSE, BY NO MEANS CERTAIN.

3. I STATED THAT, IF LONDON WAS CONSIDERING HOLDING AMBASSADOR WALLACE IN THE U.K., I WOULD DEFINITELY RECOMMEND THAT I ATTEND THE INAUGURATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, I SAID, IF AMBASSADOR WALLANCE IS IN ASUNCION AND UNDER INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO ATTEND, I WOULD ASK THE DEPARTMENT IF IT WOULD CONSIDER JOINING THE BRITISH IN THIS BOYCOTT.

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4. COMMENT: I HAVE CONTINUED TO RAISE THE LAINO CASE WITH MINISTERS AND OTHER INFLUENTIAL GOVERNMENT FIGURES AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY AND HAVE BEEN ASSURED THE CASE WILL WORK OUT TO OUR SATISFACTION. HOWEVER, WE MUST CONSIDER THE CONTINGENCY IF ONLY BECAUSE THE BRITISH HAVE RAISED IT. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT BOYCOTTING THE INAUGURATION CEREMONIES IS A GOOD IDEA. IT WOULD INFURIATE THE GOVERNMENT AND CUT OFF COMMUNICATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, NOW

THAT WE HAVE ACOMPLISHED THE PARTICIPATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND  
THE REST OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION  
IN PARAGUAY, WE SHOULD GIVE THE BRITISH INITIATIVE A CAREFUL AND  
SYMPATHETIC HEARING WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PERSUADING THEM THAT  
A CONTINUING INTEREST WILL DO MORE GOOD THAN ONE DRAMATIC  
GESTURE.

WHITE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INAUGURATION, POLITICAL PRISONERS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** ATTENDANCE AT STROESSNER'S INAGURATION  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PINT, PDIP, PA, (STROESSNER, ALFREDO), (LAINO, DOMINGO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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